

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
COUNTY OF NEWPORT**

The Town Council of the Town of Tiverton, County and State aforesaid held a Special Meeting on Saturday, the 22nd day of February 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Tiverton Town Hall, 343 Highland Road.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Council President Roderick, Vice-President deMedeiros, Councilor Chabot and Councilor Pelletier. Councilors Gerlach and Arruda arrived later, Councilor Lambert was absent.

Interim Administrator/Town Clerk Nancy Mello was also present.

1. Call To Order

Council President Roderick opened the Special Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, called the meeting to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

2. Overall Discussion and Possible Votes on FY 2014/2015 Budget

Councilor Pelletier called for a list of assets that the Town owns. Councilor deMedeiros requested looking at EMS Incentive again as well as Fire Hoses. Interim Town Administrator (IT/A) /Town Clerk Nancy Mello explained the Clerk's and Treasurer's budgets were still being looked at. Copies of the latest budget dated February 14 were provided. On page 5, Town Administrator Auto Expense was increased by \$500 to \$2,500, Salary was at \$90,000. Councilor Chabot requested adding \$2,000 for Education/Seminars. President Roderick suggested reducing the Department Management Salary by \$2,000 and put in Education. IT/A Mello suggested not cutting Litigation any more, will be out of money this year, already approved \$33,000 for Sakonnet Bridge Tolls, trying to avoid taking out of Council Contingency, will also have the budget on Monday's agenda. Taking \$12,500 out of insurance savings within the budget. Setting up accounts called Unbudgeted Items and Treasurer Accrual Account. Councilor Gerlach arrived at this time. Police Chief Thomas Blakey discussed the Police Department (PD) budget, 7% increase is in operations, everything else is contractual or State mandated. There are unknowns, some traffic tickets involve overtime, more arrests mean more overtime. Suggest taking \$30,000 from the dispatcher, hire one instead of two, the Animal Control Officer and the Records Clerk will work the desk more. Chief Blakey noted just had another hiring list established. IT/A Mello questioned if would be a violation by not filling are continually advertising; need to go back to the lists. Chief Blakey explained first they have to pass the test for the dispatcher, then a general aptitude test, a background check. From the prior list some people did not pass the test, other took jobs, one worked just 8 weeks. Did an orientation this past Thursday, is a difficult position. Councilor Pelletier noted the need to streamline, want to do in a responsible manner that serves the department and the community as well.

Chief Blakey has brought in over \$1million by grants, drug seizures and donations. Share with other departments, grants have dried up considerably, still looking for more. Discussion on the animal shelter followed, requested \$33,700, IT/A Mello suggested cutting, have transfers out every year, runoff detail report. Chief Blakey noted it was \$12.25 per cage, 6 cages for 365 days. Councilor Arruda arrived at this time. IT/A Mello pointed out \$9,000 was transferred out last year, and for years before. IT/A Mello questioned the number of present personnel. Chief Blakey has 10 officers with Masters Degrees, 11 with Bachelors and 7 with Associates degrees. Nothing in the contract requires officers inform the Chief before taking courses, needs to be straightened out. Code Red is a very good program, does not involve purchase of equipment, just for services. Chief Blakey suggested saving money with a maintenance vehicle truck, put on a plow to do Town buildings. Will save \$30-40 per hour, looking for a truck, getting idea of prices. Will look at a variety of things for a maintenance truck, find out about payment plans. Back to the Budget discussion, the Town Clerk reduced the

photocopier lease to \$4,000, dropped EDC postage to \$1,000. Councilor Pelletier suggested using more mass communication with email database of addresses. The Tax Assessor printing account was reduced to \$2,000. Tax Collector Consulting Services, suggest reducing to \$6,000, still have over \$7,000 in that account now. Consensus was to reduce the Tax Collector postage by \$500; going down to \$8,500. Town Clerk Mello noted years ago a policy was implemented for using the postage meter. After consulting with the Planning Department, Supplies & Misc. could be reduced to \$1,250 and Publications to \$300.

Fire Department- Chief Lloyd was down by 5 people, IT/A requested back up, need to know how many probationary Firefighters, asked for clarification for Monday night's meeting. Minimum staffing was 7 per shift. Need Chief Lloyd here to explain. Councilor Pelletier noted the need to know all the assets, all the personnel to make good financial decisions. IT/A Mello will require Chief Lloyd attend Monday's meeting. BC was very happy getting the 5 year averages information from the Council. IT/A Mello suggested holding off on base salary, fire inspection fees set by the State. Councilor deMedeiros questioned the EMS Incentive request for \$92K. At this point the budget was reduced from 2.9 to 2.54%. IT/A Mello added will be short in unemployment account, Towns pays that direct. Discussed the Recreation budget next. Councilor Gerlach was trying to find out what the leagues contribute to all the fields will email the Clerk when known. The Recreation Commission had the Co-coordinator position on its agenda, has not gone before Council or Personnel Board. Important function needs due diligence. IT/A Mello brought up Joan Macomber, looking for grant money for Parents as Teachers. BC Chair Dave Perry volunteered to come up with a realistic budget. President Roderick suggested \$500.

Councilor deMedeiros made a motion, seconded by Councilor Pelletier to give a \$500 grant in the FY Budget 2014/15 to Parents as Teachers under Grants. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilor Chabot made a motion to reduce Wildlife Rehabilitators Assoc. of RI to \$200. Councilor deMedeiros seconded for discussion. Councilor Gerlach pointed out they rehabilitate injured birds. Councilor Chabot added the Council has people to think about. Councilor Gerlach will support. The motion passed on a vote of 4-2, Councilors Gerlach, Roderick, deMedeiros in favor, Councilors Arruda and Chabot opposed.

Discussion started on the Harbor Master's budget. IT/ A Mello explained the Council has to have the final budget to the Town Administrator by March 8th, a Saturday. After Monday's Council meeting will have the entirety all clocked in. Harbor Master Boat Operations was increased for extra patrols, could not be explained, is an arbitrary number. The HM did put in for an assistant. Monday night's Council meeting budget discussion will focus on Recreation, Fire, Harbor Master and Animal Control. Budget is at 2.55% from 2.9%, a reduction in the Municipal budget; bottom line is \$18,888,767 for 2.55%. Represents about \$469K over last year's budget, hefty increases in contractual items. Will print an updated budget for Monday with today's changes.

3. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilor Pelletier motioned to adjourn, seconded by Councilor deMedeiros, passed unanimously.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

A True Copy.

ATTEST: _____ Nancy L. Mello, Town Clerk